

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
H. Takeuchi

Serial No.: **To Be Assigned** Art Unit: **To Be Assigned**

Filed: **Concurrently herewith** Examiner: **To Be Assigned**

For: **Bendable Bottom Member For Bed**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

After assigning a serial number to the above-captioned application and before calculating the fee, kindly undertake the following changes:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute amended claims 5 and 6 below for original claims 5 and 6 as follows:

5. (Amended) A bendable bottom member, according to claim 1, wherein the beveled portions at the bases of the connecting protrusions are inclined in adaptation to the desired bending angles with the adjacent bars.

6. (Amended) A bendable bottom member, according to claim 1, wherein hooks are formed at the tips of the connecting protrusions provided with the disengagement preventing means while steps to be engaged with the hooks are formed in the corresponding accepting recesses.

Kindly add new claims 7-13 as follows:

7. A bendable bottom member, according to claim 2, wherein the beveled portions at the bases of the connecting protrusions are inclined in adaptation to the desired bending angles with the adjacent bars.

8. A bendable bottom member, according to claim 3, wherein the beveled portions at the bases of the connecting protrusions are inclined in adaptation to the desired bending angles with the adjacent bars.

9. A bendable bottom member, according to claim 4, wherein the beveled portions at the bases of the connecting protrusions are inclined in adaptation to the desired bending angles with the adjacent bars.

10. A bendable bottom member, according to claim 2, wherein hooks are formed at the tips of the connecting protrusions provided with the disengagement preventing means while steps to be engaged with the hooks are formed in the corresponding accepting recesses.

11. A bendable bottom member, according to claim 3, wherein hooks are formed at the tips of the connecting protrusions provided with the disengagement preventing means while steps to be engaged with the hooks are formed in the corresponding accepting recesses.

12. A bendable bottom member, according to claim 4, wherein hooks are formed at the tips of the connecting protrusions provided with the disengagement preventing means while steps to be engaged with the hooks are formed in the corresponding accepting recesses.

13. A bendable bottom member, according to claim 5, wherein hooks are formed at the tips of the connecting protrusions provided with the disengagement preventing means while steps to be engaged with the hooks are formed in the corresponding accepting recesses.

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 6 have been amended, and new claims 7-13 presented, to eliminate multiple dependencies and place the claims in proper U.S. format. Support for each of the newly added claims can be found in original claims 5 and 6. The present amendment is deemed not to add new matter. Claims 1-13 are in the application.

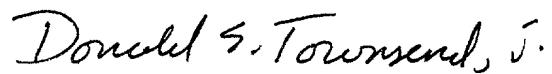
It is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for examination on the merits and early action and allowance thereof is accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

TOWNSEND & BANTA



Donald E. Townsend
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Donald E. Townsend, Jr.
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Date: December 7, 2001

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS 5 and 6

Please substitute the amended Claims 5 and 6 for original Claims 5 and 6 as follows:

5. (Amended) A bendable bottom member, according to [any one of claims] claim 1 [through 4], wherein the beveled portions at the bases of the connecting protrusions are inclined in adaptation to the desired bending angles with the adjacent bars.

6. (Amended)A bendable bottom member, according to [any one of claims] claim 1 [through 5], wherein hooks are formed at the tips of the connecting protrusions provided with the disengagement preventing means while steps to be engaged with the hooks are formed in the corresponding accepting recesses.